

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-60. (canceled)

61. (currently amended) A method for controlling an ultrasonic surgical handpiece [using a switch located on a housing of the handpiece], comprising the steps of:

providing a switch located on a housing;
monitoring pressure applied to the [housing using the] switch;
activating the handpiece at a first power level if the monitored pressure reaches a [high] first threshold; and
deactivating the handpiece if the monitored pressure reaches a [low] second threshold.

62. (original) The method of claim 61 further comprising the step of operating the handpiece at a power level selected from a plurality of power levels if the monitored pressure reaches a specific threshold of a respective plurality of thresholds corresponding to the plurality of power levels.

63.(original) The method of claim 61 wherein the pressure is monitored by a sensor located inside the housing of the handpiece selected from a group consisting of an electro-mechanical switch, a force-sensitive resistor, force sensitive capacitor, strain gauge, magnet, ferromagnet, piezo film and piezo ceramic.

64.(original) The method of claim 61 wherein the switch is generally aligned with the blade as the blade is rotated.

65.(original) The method of claim 61 wherein the switch provides its switching functionality according to a lagging effect as the monitored pressured is changed.

66-68. (canceled)